(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the provisions of the treaty are to be reviewed keeping in view our national interests; and

(d) if so, at what level the matter is to be taken up with Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indus Water Treaty I960, envisaging the utilization of the waters of the Indus system of waters, fixing and delimiting the right and obligations of India and Pakistan in relation to the other concerning its use, was signed by the two Governments on 19th September, 1960, and become retrospectively effective from 1st April, 1960.

(c) and (d) The provisions of the Treaty may be modified from time to time by a duly ratified Treaty concluded for this purpose by the two Governments. No review is however, under consideration of Government.

**Arrest of Pakistani Citizens in Connection with Fake Currency**

2976. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Pakistani citizens were arrested by Nepal Police for possessing fake Indian currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will endeavour extradition of the arrested persons in view of large number of fake currency notes they have circulated in India ;

(d) whether it also a fact that these notes are printed in some European countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (e) Yes Sir. Aslam Saboor, Assistant-UDC in the Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu was caught on 2 January, 2000 while trying to sell counterfeit Indian currency notes to an under-cover agent of the Nepal Police. On January 5,2000 he was asked by the Government of Nepal to leave the country within 72 hours on account of "his involvement in an activity incompatible with his status". There have been other reports of

arrests of Pakistani nationals in cases relating to circulation of fake currency in Nepal, which are being investigated by the concerned authorities in HMGN. Government of India have no evidence to establish that the fake currency notes were printed in some European countries.

**FBI's Office in India**

†2977. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

SHRI J. CHITHANJAN :

SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have permitted Federal Bureau of Investigation of America to set up its office in India for working independently;

(b) if so, when it was permitted and by when the office of the said institution is likely to be set up; and

(c) what are the reasons for which Government have permitted this American intelligence agency to work in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) ; (a) It has been decided by mutual consultations to allow the US Embassy in New Delhi to augment its strength for opening a Legal Attache Office. Such offices are normally manned by two FBI Officers. Government of India has similar representation in its Embassy in Washington. There is however no proposal for setting up an independent office of the FBI in India.

(b) The decision was taken in February 2000 and the US Government is in the process of implementing it shortly.

(c) The decision was taken in the context of growing Indo-US bilateral co-operation on counter-terrorism. While necessary mechanism to counter terrorism is already in place with the Extradition Treaty and the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, the opening of the Legal Attache Office will enable more effective co-ordination between our law enforcement agencies. It will also singal greater commonality of interests between the two countries in the fight against terrorism. This will in turn exert pressure on extremist groups operating across borders.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.